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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for iblication wish to have rejected articles returned, they publication wish to have repeted for that purpose, must the all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Who Are the "Corporation" Legis-

Our esteemed contemporary the Chicago Tribune, a newspaper published by a corporation, seems to be endeavoring to establish a classification distinguishing "corporation Senators" from those who are not "corporation Senators." Precision and clarity do not attend the Tribune's efforts in this direction.

We have at hand no list of the investments and possessions of the several gentlemen who sit in the United States Senate. If a complete schedule of the property of every one of them was available for scrutiny, we shou'd be very much surpr sed to find a single individual among the eighty-nine who is not a corporation Senator. Indeed, if an exception were discovered in the person of a Senator actually destitute of certificate or memorandum of indebtedness link-ing his name with the corporate interests, we should be inclined to commiser-

We should be still more astonished if the complete abstention from proprietary nterest in cor, oration stocks or securities in the case of any "non-corporation" Senator or Representative were explained by that legislator as the result of the stern application of moral principles, rather than as arising from his lack of thrift, or opportunity, or talent for accumulation and legitimate investment

Of course, if the circumstance of being a "corporation Senator" involves odium -and the Chicago Tribune appears to regard it so-it makes no difference in the moral sense whether the culprit is implicated to the extent of five hundred dollars or five millions. The principle

is the same. We can imagine our esteemed contemporary replying that not the mere ownership of stocks or bonds of corporations makes the "corporation" Senator or Representative, but a willingness on his part to allow such ownership or interest to influence his professed opinions and his votes in matters of legislation affecting corporations.

The moral offense, then, becomes one of motive, which is something pretty difficult to establish satisfactorily. What test would the Chicago Tribune apply? The correspondence or non-correspondence That would be ridiculous.

Is There a Drift Toward Rationalism?

A letter from a Jew which we print today makes the interesting suggestion that as the tendency of Jews in this country is toward "reformed" or liberal or rationalistic Judaism, they are getting into "one category with advanced Christians," of whom he gives the Unitarians

It is a remarkable fact, however, that the Unitarians and other distinctively rationalistic bodies of Christians are diminishing rather than gaining in numbers in New York, so far as organized membership goes, while the denominations of orthodox Christianity show an

According to a computation of Christian communicants in New York last year made by the Federation of Churches the Unitarians numbered only 1,645 and had fallen off nearly 7 per cent, during the year. The Universalists were less than a thousand, or about a fifth less. The exact relative numbers of the orthodox and the reformed Jews are not obtainable, but unquestionably at present the former are by far the more numerous. The richest Jewish congregation in this country is unquestionably that of the reformed Temple Emanu-El, at Fifth avenue and Forty-third street, but in numbers it is small relatively to the aggregate of the congregations of the more studiously restrained and respectful than three hundred synagogues in the East Side district of the town below Houston street, the seat of orthodox

Of the Christian communicants of New York last year, enumerated by that Federation as 1,363,150 out of a total estimated population of 3,945,907, all except about ten thousand were included in the fifty-odd denominations of the different varieties of religious orthodoxy, in the sense of acceptance of the fundamental dogmas of supernatural Christianity. Of the whole number of Protestant communicants all except about eight thousand were members of the strictly "evangelical" denominations, the Episcopal, Presbyterian and Reformed Dutch, the Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist and Congregational.

Nominally, at least, the approximation alistic position of reformed Judaism is insignificant. So far as there has been a gain numerically, it has been on the side of Christian orthodoxy. The aggregate number of people in the rationalistic organizations is so trifling relatively as to be negligible.

The majority of the people of New York, however, are not communicants of any Christian Church. More than a million Protestants are set down by the Federation as "churchless," and besides them about half a million are estimated

their religion.

If, then, there is to be any such harmony of religious or irreligious convictions as our Jewish correspondent suggests, the opportunity for it, apparently, must be furnished in this great number of the "churchless" and religiously indifferent.

It is remarkable that at this time of religious doubt, as described by Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH, the distinctively skeptical and rationalistic organizations are losing strength and the orthodox only are increasing in numbers. Simultaneously, however, the number of people who are giving up all organized religion or who render to it only a formal and conventional allegiance is increasing, and they now make up about a half of the population of New York not Jewish. How large a percentage of the threequarters of a million Jews are strictly religious believers we are unable to estimate with any approach to accuracy. Probably they are now the great majority, but according to our correspondent the drift among those of the newer generation is toward rationalism.

Usurious Life Insurance.

The Maddox decision, of course, does not touch the main question between the policyholders and the managers of the Equitable.

Whatever the property rights of the stockholders may be, the charter limits their dividends to seven per cent. annually on the small total capital of the society, one hundred thousand dollars. The Equitable stock would be worth perhaps not over 200 but for the now notorious methods employed by the controlling interest to exploit, by means of underwriting," subsidiary trust companies and banks, speculative enterprise, extravagant administrative expenditure and agents' commissions, the vast accumulation of money drawn from the pockets of the policyholders. and this for the benefit of other pockets than those of the policyholders.

About thirteen years ago, at an annual meeting of the national organization of Insurance Commissioners, Mr. DAVID P. FACKLER, an ex-president of the ctuarial Society, read a paper which attracted much attention at the time. In view of subsequent events we think these passages will be interesting:

"When companies are controlled by stockholders, the personal ambition of their managers, growing by what it feeds on, will probably not allow their business to fall behind that of the mutual companies, and thus, through action and reaction, there would be a constant stimulus to competition.

"What, then, can be done to guard against the impending danger? Many years reflection has led to a belief that dangerous overgrowth could be practically and effectively prevented by laws providing that whenever and while the gross assets of any life insurance company shall amount to \$200,000,000, such company shall no longer be permitted to employ or pay any persons as agents, or solicitors, or brokers, or medical examiners, on commission or on salary or otherwise, to obtain any new business; but that any citizen shall, however, be free to insure in such company, provided he shall write out his own application, transmit it directly to the company, and pay the fee for his own medical examination.

"Such a law would leave the companies free to advertise for new business in any way they might wish, and would not naturally restrict the libertles of the citizen. Where companies still desired to increase their business, they could be compelled of the suspected leg slator's views of to rely solely on arguments addressed to the reason, right and wrong and public policy with with publication of examples of their dividends its own views on the same subject? or other payments to policyholders; and as relief ormous cost of getting new would enable the companies thus limited to do far better for their policyholders than ever before, sufficient new business to replace all discontinu ances would probably come in without cost."

Mr. FACKLER'S remarks in 1892 are quoted now rather for the sake of his diagnosis and prognostications than for the specific remedy he recommended.

At one end the policyholder pays the commission of the agent, be it reasonable or excessive. At the other end he pays the profit on the "underwriting" done by the accomplished financiers in the board of direction.

Progress of the Anti-Catholic Crusade in France.

Since the bill for the abolition of the Concordat between France and the Papacy was reported to the Chamber of Deputies by a Parliamentary Commission in the latter part of Narch the discussion of the measure has gone on, and if we may judge from the number of Deputies who have announced their intention of speaking, it is likely to continue for some time. Already the debate has disclosed serious differences in the ranks of the Government majority, and some harsh features of the original project have been so softened as to provoke remonstrance on the part of ex-Premier Combes. Meanwhile the five Cardinals who are Archbishops and Bishops of sees in France have formulated in terms their objections to the pending bill, in a memorial addressed to the President of the French Republic. The text of this document is now before us.

The Cardinals submit that the suppression of the budget for public worship would be a violation of one of the most important clauses of the Concordat. They point out that at the time when the compact between France and the Papacy was made, it was recognized by the State that there was need of undoing the injustice wrought by the Revolutionary decrees, of settling men's conscientious scruples, and of securing an unclouded title for individual holders of Church lands. By that agreement the Church surrendered all right of reclaiming its lands, and in return the State pledged itself to furnish an endowment for the clergy. The complete suppresof New York Christianity to the ration- sion of the budget for religious worship would be, so the Cardinals contend, a refusal to carry out a clear obligation born of a contract. They predict that such an act of repudiation would dis-

turb profoundly the public conscience. The Cardinals further deny that Catholics may lawfully be deprived of their continent where rubber plants are inchurches. They point out that, just as in 1789 the property of the clergy was | zil is contained in the monograph of "put at the disposal of the nation" to Mr. E. ULE, published in January by avert public bankruptcy, so through the Kolonial-Wirtschaftliches Komitee of the Concordat the churches were again | Berlin. This expert spent many months "placed at the disposal of the Bishops." of 1900-03 in visiting a large part of the as merely church attendants, and of the Nobody disputes that there had been a rubber territory of the Amazon basin.

ber are inattentive to the obligations of why, then, was there not a transfer of plantations of hevea or Para rubber property in the second case? By what right can the selfsame words be construed in the second instance as a conventional, meaningless phrase, the apparent purport of which may be repudiated at any moment? It would, then, be a violation of fundamental justice, say the Cardinals, for the French Parliament to take from Catholics the ownership of their churches. Finally, the attention of President LOUBET is invited to the fact that the Concordat was a contract which itself contained no provisions for its abrogation. Consequently, according to a primary principle of the French Code, it is dissoluble only with the consent of both parties.

> How are these arguments answered? M. BRIAND, the reporter of the Parliamentary Commission, denies that the money voted in the budget of worship should be considered in the light of a debt payable by the State to the Church in compensation for the ecclesiastical property taken over at the time of the Revolution. He maintains that the salaries in question have been donatives made out of good will by the State, and in no sense by way of indemnity. He goes on to say that, even if they could be construed as indemnity, the payments that have been made in the last hundred years have far more than covered the State's indebtedness to the Church; for in 1803 the budget of worship amounted to four million francs, while under the Empire the grant for this purpose rose to fifty millions, and even now is more than forty millions. If, then, the sums thus handed over to the Church be added to the free use of ecclesiastical buildings, the indebtedness will be found to lie, not with the State. but with the Church. As a matter of equity, however, M. BRIAND reminds his opponents that the bill proposes to provide for all existing clergymen so long as they shall live, and withholds stipends only from those ordained hereafter. The bill itself also gave the Church the free use of cathedrals, churches and parish houses for a term of two years, and this concession has since been materially augmented by an amendment.

> M. BRIAND has evidently found it hard to explain how the Concordat, a bilateral compact between France and the Holy See, can be abrogated by an act of the French Government, which is only one of the signatory parties. He undertakes to draw a distinction between the Concordat itself and the law by which it was carried out in France; just as in the United States a distinction is drawn between certain treaties and the acts of Congress which are needed to render operative the provisions of those treaties. The Concordat, M. BRIAND admits, is a contract dissoluble only by the consent of both parties. The law, however, which carries it out was made by the French Parliament, and therefore can be unmade by it. Would it be right. however, to repeal the law if the contract is still binding? M. BRIAND denies that the contract is any longer obligatory, because, he says, the Concordat has been broken by the unilateral will of the Pope, who has so acted that the Government of the Republic has judged his acts to be a deliberate defiance of its

> As the Cardinals, in their memorial, deny that any justification for the aboliwould seem to require that the question whether the contract is still technically and morally binding should not be arbitrarily answered by one of the parties, but should be referred to arbitration.

Justice Hooker.

There is evident reluctance among the Republican politicians of the State to push the prosecution of Supreme Court try. Justice WARREN B. HOOKER to its conclusion. They hesitate to call the Legislature in special session to remove him from the bench. They hope this discredited judicial officer will resign. They admit his unfitness for the bench, but they display a peculiar timorousness about kicking him off it.

Not even the most callous politician, Republican or Democrat, defends the continued presence of WARREN B. HOOK-ER in the judiciary of the State. Why, then, do not the Republican masters of the Legislature call upon it to do its duty? What reason for delay and procrastina-

the case? Plantation Rubber.

The prevailing doubt, some years ago, that rubber could be cultivated in plantations was due to the failure of the attempt in several Latin-American countries. When Mr. O. F. Cook made his exhaustive report on rubber two years ago his main conclusions, however, were that rubber may be cultivated with profit like any tropical field crop, and that plantation rubber, before many years, will be the chief dependence, because the wild growths will not supply the demand.

This view has been confirmed by all recent experience in planting. It is now certain that rubber cultivation will soon be a profitable industry, and that it will be carried on not only in Africa and Asia, where rubber plantations are already coming into bearing, but also in Brazil, Nicaragua and other countries of America where the first experiments

were failures. Testimony as to the practicability of rubber cultivation is coming from every digenous. The latest report from Bra-Roman Catholic population a large nums transfer of property in the first oase: He says that the attempts to develop to extreme the

trees along the Amazon met with little success because the planters did not give adequate care to the young trees. They excused this neglect on the ground that the cost of labor was comparatively high and they preferred the immediate

profit of using labor to collect the wild rubber. Cultivated trees, however, are thriving wherever they have been well cared for, and it has been proved that trees of Hevea Brasiliensis on Amazon plantations will yield rubber within fifteen years after planting, while a tree in the

forest requires twenty-five years. This tree supplies the best quality of rubber in the market. It is fortunate, therefore, that it thrives in most rubber regions. Planters in Ceylon, the Malay Peninsula and the Guinea coast of Africa, where the largest plantation enterprises have been developing, all attest the superiority of the Brazilian hevea for cultivation in those regions. The latest testimony to this effect comes from the Director of Agriculture in the Gold Coast Colony, who says that the hevea brought from Brazil is excelling all other kinds planted in quantity and quality of rubber and in its rate of growth. This Para rubber tree is also producing fine results on the plantations of the Malay Peninsula and Ceylon, where it has

reached the stage of utilization. The most extensive plantations are on the Congo, where the Government since 1899 has required the planting of the Landolphia vine, at least in proportion to the tonnage of rubber collected from the wild vine. There is a large number of these plantations, and a map in the April number of the Scottish Geographical Magazine shows them from near the Atlantic Ocean to more than a thousand miles inland. The Congo State and commercial companies have planted about 1,500,000 of these vines, which are in a very thriving condition and are estimated to be worth \$600,000.

Rubber is surpassed only by sugar and coffee among the great tropical exports. It is gratifying that the facts now known justify confidence that the future supply will meet the increasing demand.

Emigration from Spain is increasing so fast that the press and Government are alarmed. Loss of population is a very serious matter in Spain. Only the other day 4.000 laborers left Valencia and Tarragona for Brazil and Argentina; 5,000 are awaiting transportation from Malaga, and thousands are leaving from other Spanish ports. This exodus of labor is the theme of constant discussion in all the Spanish news-

The avidity with which the Japanese people, besides many foreigners, absorb her war loans is surprising, particularly in contrast with the marked neglect of the Russian domestic war loans by the Russian people. Japan has issued four domestic war loans, in amounts and subscriptions as follows:

Loan Subscribed. First loan......\$50,000,000 \$226,000.000 \$16,700,000 Second loan.... 50,000,000 161,000,000 8,100,000 Third loan 40,000,000 123,000,000 Fourth loan..... 50,000,000 250,000,000 38,500,000

These figures are given in the Sun Trade Journal of Tokio for May. Foreigners absorbed about half the fourth loan, which was a signal success. British subjects and American citizens lead the list, followed by some Chinese. The foreign community of Yokohama alone offered to take \$7,000,000. tion of the Concordat can be found in London applied for \$5,000,000 and New measures taken by the Pope, justice York for \$3,500,000. Some foreigners offered 1,100 delegates had ever seen him. \$50 premium for each \$500 bond

The fifth domestic loan of \$50,000,000, issued May 1, was as successful as the fourth.

Jews and Christians.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In THE Sux some time ago a "New Yorker" raises the question whether the Jews, "scientific" cording to the principle of the survival of the fittest, are destined to dominate. This question is of importance to the entire counif the fittest, whoever they are, exercise not their domination-domination is not con patible with our free institutions-but their influence, their positions, offices and better qualities, for the welfare and development of our country.

Our endeavor should be to prove that Oxenstierna, the Secretary of Sweden under Gustavus Adolphus the Great, was wrong Gustavus Adolphus the Great, was wrong when he said to his son: "You don't know with how much stupidity the world is governed." Let us relinquish every unscientific classification and degradation of manking made in past dark ages. For the sake of the country let the fittest be the leaders of the nation; asknowledge and do not counteract them; if they are superior in science and experience let them teach you, and if they are honest rely on them. If the Jews make better husbands they ought to be preferred by Christian gris. Christian girls.
Moreover, science forces us to put reformed

What reason for delay and procrastination have they? Their own agents have condemned the accused Judge, condemned him unanimously. What reasonable cause can be assigned for the neglect of Governor Higgins to call the law-makers together to complete the work begun by the Assembly Committee on Judiciary this winter?

Is it because Mr. Odell is not yet back from Europe? What has the presence or absence of Mr. Odell to do with

Negro Heroes Honored in Arkansas

To the EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Sunday after noon, May 21, Charles Carlin, the twenty-month old son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Carila, while playing in front of the Grace Hotel, on Narkham street, ran on the street car track, upon which a car was rapidly approaching. When the car was not more than ten feet from the child his nurse, Catherine Lawson, a thirteen-year-old negro girl, ran to the track and seized him. Before she could turn the car struck her. As she fell beneath the wheels she threw the baby clear of the track. She died

movement was at once started to build a monument to this negro girl, who is the daughter of a washerwoman, and a number of subscription Seven years ago a number of people gathered in the Capital Theater in Little Rock to see fou gold medals given to four negro skiffmen who had saved a number of white people from drowning in saved a number of the Arkansas River.

J. N. HEISDELL,
Editor Arkansas Gazette,

in a few hours from her injuries. The child was

ctically unhurt.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., May 25.

Fireproof Cars in the Subway TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Why is no the subway company fulfilling its promise to with-draw from use the wooden cars and substitute fireproof ones? Apparently no effort is being made to do this. The trains are running as in the beginning, with more wooden cars than steel. How inflammable the wooden cars are was de constrated in the recent fire in the vicinity of 138th reet. Is it necessary to dupileate the horror in the Paris underground or have another Slocum disaster to make the company fulfil its obligation

Turtle Catches Crow.

From the Richmond Times-Desputch.

James W. Lane, a farmer of Spottsylvania county, steing excitement in a flock of crows in his cornfield a few days ago, went into the field and fired He found that one crow had bee aught by a turtle and the others had been trying

MR. TAFT IN OHIO POLITICS. Excellent Personal Impression Made by

His Reappearance Last Week. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The Republican State convention which met in Columbus Wednesday and Thursday of this week has more than usual significance, because it signalized the reentrance into Ohio politics of the Hon. William H. Taft, Secretary of War. The older men in politics recall a State convention at Columbus over twenty years ago, when he appeared at the head of the Hamilton county delegation. It was a turbulent body of men and had not reached that state of discipline and obedience that it has now acquired under the government and leadership of George B. Cox. It was divided on one of the candidates for a State office, and

the vote as announced was challenged. The chairman of the convention ordered the delegation polled, and Taft, as chairman of the delegation, was proceeding to make the poll, when two big delegates got into an altercation and squared off for a fight. Taft quickly thrust the pass book in which he was noting the poll into his pocket, and seizing one of the fighters with his right and the other with his left hand, he pushed them back to their seats, cowed. Then he quietly went on with the poll.

Ten years afterward, when he was Solicitor-General under President Harrison's administration, he was reminded of the incident and smilingly said: "When one has great physical strength he is sometimes tempted to use it when he ought not to." Shortly after that State convention he practically retired from State politics, became absorbed in the practise of law, and in 1887 was elected Judge of the Superior Court of Cincinnati. He served for three years. He was then called to Washington as Solicitor-General, and in 1892 was appointed by President Harrison Judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, which position he held until President McKinley appointed him at the head of the Philippine Commission. While he was Solicitor-General he assured

his friends that his ambition was entirely judicial, and at that time it is probable he had cast aside all thought of further political activity. His judicial and foreign duties still further separated him from the people and affairs of his home State, and he lost touch with them almost altogether. He was remembered as a distinguished citizen of Ohio, and his old neighbors and friends took genuine pride in his achievements and in his growing strength and influence, but with the vast majority be was only a name. When he became so prominent that he was mentioned seriously as a possible Presidential candidate a transitory interest in him was aroused, but he really had no constituency at home, and the common remark was: "Oh! he is not a politician. He will be appointed to the Supreme bench some day, and end his days there. That is his ambition."

It was Senator Dick who asked and obtained his consent to act as temporary chairman of the Republican State convention. It may be that Dick wished to checkmate the ambition of his distinguished colleague in the Senate and saw in Taft a means to accomplish this. Whatever Dick's object was, he was right when he said: "One to be commandingly influential in national affairs should have the constituency of his own State behind and in touch with him." Secretary Taft did not have that until he appeared on the conven-

tion platform. Whether Secretary Taft will be a candidate for President or not, he has had the opportunity to meet the active Republicans of the State face to face, to mingle with them and take part in their deliberations, and they have had the opportunity to meet him and to measure him as a personal and political quantity. He was, of course, the central figure of the convention. Probably not one in twenty of the over

tion was of unusual interest, because it was believed he would speak for the Administration on some critical questions, but I think the interest in seeing and hearing the man himself was even greater than the message he was to bring. He read his speech with a clear, distinct voice, without oratorical flourish, much as he would read an opinion from the bench. The interest in it and the man was critical and intense. The lawyers smiled when he interpreted "caveat emptor" as "every one for himself and the devil take the hindmost," but the large audience looked and listened, eager to catch every motion of the speaker and every word he uttered, and not until he had finished and said "What is the pleasure of the convention?" did they wake up to a genuine appreciation of the man and his

He had captured the convention. After the convention there was a reception in the Governor's office, where the delegates and others had an opportunity to meet the Secretary and shake his hand. His fine presence, his winning smile and pleasant, un conventional manner won every one, and all felt that in Ohio there was a new power that must be reckoned with in the future. and a power that they feel will work for righteousness and for higher and better things in politics in the Buckeye State.

In connection with Secretary Taft's reported declaration that his ambition is reported declaration that his ambition is entirely judicial it is interesting to hear from his close associates that he thoroughly enjoyed presiding over the convention and coming again into personal contact with the rank and file of his party. COLUMBUS, O., May 26.

War Relics Not Highly Regarded.

From the Washington Sta Washington veteran who recently visited historic South Mountain, in Washington county, Md., found that there are many grim relies of the sanguinary battle of Anticiam, and the fight on South Mountain, in possession of the farmers in that

"The strangest part of it," said the Washington man, "is that these relies are regarded by the na-tives as of little value. In one place, not far from Eakle's Mill, a farmer has a beautifully engraved Masonic sword which has been used as a plaything by the children of the neighborhood. blems.

"The farmer who owns this rare relic stated that his father detached it from the body of a dead Con-federate officer, who, after being shot at the battle of South Mountain, crawled into a thicket to die. His remains were found there several days after the fight, when the guns of both armies were thundering along Anticiam creek and about Sharpsburg. "In another farm house a bayonet found in a as a stove lifter, and at others are cannon balls and musket balls gaiore, which are thrown about as though they were of no historic value what-

The Girls Not Left Behind. n the dusktime oft they see them, see their "giris"

of years agone Smiling sweethearts of the Blue, smiling sweethearts of the Gray; Shadow faces, shadow figures, hovering at twi-

With their "boys" they've been a-marching down the gloaming of the way. On the morrow we may see them, see those "girls"

light hour:

f years agone In the sweetheart eyes of Blue, in the sweetheart eyes of Gray: Shadowed faces, shadowed figures, feebly marching, Blue and Gray-

With their "girls" we'll see them marching down caming of the way EDWARD BRANCE LIMAN. ... lish is: "Do a snake eat grass?"

TOGO'S STRATEGY.

He Merely Walts for Rejestvensky to

Give Batt'e. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In spite of the innumerable speculations regarding the movements, location and purpose of the fleets of Admirals Rojestvensky and Togo, the problem seems extremely clear and the course of events likewise certain. This prob lem does not involve the control of the South China Sca, the Straits of Formosa nor the Pacific Ocean east of the Japanese Islands, but is concerned for the present only with the Straits of Cerea. So far as this war is concerned, this is the vital point in Japan's line of communications with the mainland, whether that line proceeds up the Sea o Japan to Wonsan or through the Yellow Sea to Chemulpo, or through the Corean Bay to Dainy or Port Arthur, or through the Gulf

of Pechili to Yinkow.

The Corean strait is the gateway through which the Russian fleet must eventually pas n order to successfully attack these lines. It is only necessary, therefore, for the Japa nese to remain on guard, and as certainly as the moth flies to the lighted candle the fleet of Rojestvensky will seek these straits to these straits are guarded is at Masampo, and it is here that Admiral Tego's fleet is gathered

meet its fate. The naval base from which these straits are guarded is at Masampo, and it is here that Admiral Tego's fleet is gathered and has been waiting and will continue to wait until the Russians attack the Japanese lines of communication. The protection of these lines is Togo's problem. The destruction of these lines is Togo's problem. The destruction of these same lines is Rojestvensky's. The latter can only achieve his purpose by attacking the former. Togo therefore has only to remain on guard.

All the talk about Togo's being deceived by the movements of Rojestvensky since the latter left Madagascar is simply. I believe, self-deception upon the part of those uttering it. Tha Russian fleet may slip through the Straits of Malacca, hide in Kamranh Bay, Haokoe, Hainan, pass into the Pacific between Formosa and the Philippines, and even proceed threugh the Pacific Ocean to Vladivostok by way of the Tsugaru or La Perouse channels, and Togo will not necessarily move from Masampo. The statement credited to a Russian Admiral that Rojestvensky will force Togo to battle by bombarding Japanese cities is the merest nonsense, since the cities are all so well protected by fortresses that the Russian fleet sould do no harm, and Rojestvensky can easily bring on a battle by undertaking to pass the Corean Straits.

If the Russian fleet should reach Vladivostok by way of the Pacific Ocean the only possible advantage it would have would be its opportunity to clean up and reft, and add to its forces two (or possibly three) large cannot be sufficient for such a large fleet, and the decking facilities are so limited that a long time must elapse before the fleet could all be cleaned. Meantime, the Japanese cannot be sufficient for such a large fleet, and the decking facilities are so limited that to raise and repair the ships at Port Arthur. Five months have already elapsed since the ospiture of that fortress, and it is reported that the Pallada has been raised, and that the Bayan and others are well advanced in the matter of

Sisting Chanel Frescoes Restored.

From the London Times.

The work that has been carried on during the last two years in the Sistine Chapelis now completed, and the unsightly scaffolding will be at last removed. The commission held its last sitting on Wednesday and will not meet again. This commission was appointed by Leo XIII. in June, 1903, for the purpose of consulting as to the best method of preserving consulting as to the best method of preserving the famous frescoes of the chapel, especially the work of Michael Angelo on the celling, and to carry out and carefully supervise any course of restoration which it might recommend. Besides the experts who belong to the Vatican establishment, the coopera

mend. Besides the experts who belong to
the Vatican establishment, the cooperation
of the outside world was invited, and the
commission included as members Commendatore Boni, the director of the Roman Forum;
Commendatore Valles of the Spanish Academy, Prof. Gui of the Academy of Saint Luke
and Dr. Ernest Steinmann.

The first report of the commission was
fairly favorable. The condition of the frescose
was found to be no worse than that of others
of a corresponding age elsewhere, and all
that was necessary was the strengthening of
the hold of the plaster upon the roof. This
was effected by means of an old system, successfully employed before in the Sistine
Chapel itself. Metal clamps, T shaped, were
driven here and there through the plaster
into the solid reof, preventing any further
detachment of the plaster; and the crevioes
between the plaster and the roof, and the
interstices and cracks in the plaster itself
were filled with a mixture of lime and finely
powdered porcelain, so that the frescose
present an even and compact surface.

This work, delayed at first by the death of
Leo XIII. and the use of the Sistine Chapel
by the Conclave, was finally completed last
month. The question was then raised as
to the advisability of attempting to clean the
paintings by the removal of a coating of paste
which had become blackened by age. Careful experiment showed at once that such an
attempt would be dangerous. The work of
the commission has, therefore, strictly limited
itself to strengthening the hold of the plaster
and preserving it, as far as possible, from
breaking away or falling. No painting of
any kind has been done and no color has been
added. During the course of the work the
frescoes have been repeatedly photographed
as a proof that no change had been effected.

Moonshiners Rarely Quit.

From the Charlotte Observer.
Col. Amos Owens of Cherry Mountain. Ruther-ford county, was arrested week before last for retailing and taken before a United States Commis-sioner at Rutherfordton. The Colonel has been in the Federal Court more than a dozen times for moonshining. We are under the impression that he has also served one or two terms in the Albany penitentiary for this offense.

But the illicit traffic in liquor, whether in making

the court house back to the business; others, hav ng been convicted, serve out their sentences, and as soon as they get home secure an outfit and go as again. They take tremendous chances, but hen they lose their operations are only interrupted-only suspended until liberty and oppor tunity walt on them again. It is akin to the pas ion that cards hold for the gambler; the habit is as strong as that which morphine establishes upor the dope field or rum upon the liquor drinker. s a very curious perversion, but any officer of verify these statements.

Making an Impression in His Home Town. From the Bookman.

A man from some obscure town in California whose effusions had been repeatedly rejected invented this delightfully ingenious scheme for naking his friends believe that at last he had fo his way into the magazines. In forwarding his manuscript he wrote to the editor thus: "DRAR SIR: This is a small place where I live

and whenever a story of mine comes back the want the enclosed manuscript, but I'm sending along, just the same, together with a post card which I beg you to remail to me. The postmistress will read it, of course, and I need not tell you the within three hours the news of what is on all over town. I will know when it comes that my manuscript is rejected, and you need never retur t to me. But please mail the card to me, and w The post card had been carefully typewritter

and self-addressed. It bore these words:
"DEAR SIR: Your manuscript received, and accepted. Will write you fully regarding it as soon as possible. Is \$100 a satisfactory ---- PUBLISHING COMPANY.

> Do a Snake Eat Grass? From the Charlotte Observer.

I want you to submit a question and settle a cor troversy for me. Is a snake a vegetarian? Does he eat fruits, herbs, roots and the like? Some say that he eats nothing but birds, insects and so forth

The Observer takes great pleasure in putting the question, and here is hoping that some one who knows will answer promptly The question in plain old North Carolina Eng-

TABULATED PROSPERITY.

The Optimistic Statistician and the Impoverished Porto Rican.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: To Americans, humanity loving Americans, who would like to transplant their own solid wealth to the faraway lands under the folds of "Old Glory," the figures published in your issue of to-day by the "rosy" Mr. Ballard might carry satisfaction. To the well informed 8cs. which is to us a refreshing oasis among the interminable desert of our abandonment and penury, they will look misleading. But to us struggling Porto Ricans the pseudoprosperity embodied in those figures is absolutely intangible, and will draw this exclamation from our innermost bosom: "Pity that the bewildering dream could not be readily converted into the most blooming reality!"

We give it for granted that were it in the power of the patriotic gentleman from Sche-nectady to turn into gold nuggets all the berries picked up in the tropical fields of me country, he would most gladly contribute to the realization of the welcome metamorphosis, but his juggling with figures will not prove that Porto Rico is on the road of prosperity. While the sales of coffee remain stationary, at an unprofitable price for both the planter and the dealer, there cannot be any salvation for the Caribbean possession.

If it is true that, according to the statistical reports, the imports and to Porto Rico reached the handsome sum of \$12,930,483 and \$11,934,978, respectively, it is equally certain that on account of the change of flag—God bless the hour!—the island lost all her European markets and, incidentally with them, an inspiring trade of \$30,000,000 a year. Anterior to the Spanish-American conflict Porto Rico's coffee crop varied in total value conformable to the size of the production and the prevailing market prices. It fluctuated around \$7,000,000 or \$8,000,000 annually. As shown by the figures of the Bureau of Statistics, the United States import of Porto Rico coffee for the calendar year 1904 amounted to 2,391,524 pounds, valued at \$300,000, more or less, so there is a big balance against the island that has not been offset by the undeniable augmentation of her trade relations with this country.

It looks to us, the natives, as if the increasing transactions between Porto Rico and the specious reasoning that a larger sale to one customer, while there is a reduction in general business, is a proof of prosperity.

We do not dare to deny that the island has gained immensely by the adoption of American methods in education and health, but commercially, wait until the good idea of its Assembly, acting under the happy inspiration of Governor Winthrop, is carried out in the shape of a business agency in the market of New York. Until then it would be better for all concerned to face, openly and squarely, the dolorous, stern reality, and with that Yankee grit and firmness frequently shown in the felicitous solution of the most arduous problems try to conquer the obstacles placed in the way of Porto Rico's aslivation.

Isa to the realization of the welcome metamorphosis, but his juggling with figures will not

A POLICE PROBLEM SOLVED? Suggestion That the Higher Ranks Be

Filled With Removable "Acting" Officers. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Beyond fine and dismissal the law provides no punishment for an inefficient member of the New York Police Department. A captain whose conduct belies an excellent record as sergeant cannot be reduced in rank. An inspector who as a captain was a competent officer, but who as inspector proves useless, or worse, is fixed in his position. (Unless he can be dismissed from the force on evidence that the courts will sustain, he cannot be got out of the department, and the heaviest fine the

the department, and the heaviest line the Commissioner can impose upon him may have little or no effect.

This inability on the part of the Commissioner to reduce unsatisfactory, officers to lower grades can be offset in only one way, and Commissioner McAdoo would be justified in adopting that method, roundabout and cumbersome as it is. It consists in making no final appointments to the higher ranks of the department when vacancies exist, but in naming man to serve as acting Captains,

no final appointments to the higher ranks of the department when vacancies exist, but in naming men to serve as acting captains, acting inspectors, &c.

The men thus designated would be liable to relegation to their old posts at the will of the Commissioner. Such as proved worthy of the higher rank could receive permanent appointments when the Commissioner was satisfied of their capacity. Those who failed in the performance of their new duties would be reduced to their old standing. Each acting officer would be completely under the control of the responsible head of the department, always on probation and conscious that his tenure of office depended on the manner in which he performed his duty to the city.

The law under which promotions in the Police Department are made is ingeniously framed for the advantage of the policeman, against the Commissioner and the public. It should make provision for reducing officers to lower grades, the surest and easiest method of enforcing discipline and maintaining a high standard of efficiency. As long as such provision is not made, the Commissioner must do the best he can with the means at hand, and if Commissioner McAdoc can find in the appointment of "acting" commanding officers a remedy for the situation created by the statute, he can solve one of the most difficult problems he has to meet.

NEW YORK, May 28.

Ex-POLICEMAN.

ult problems he has to meet.
Ex-POLICEMAN. NEW YORK, May 28. Things Japanese. The Emperor of Japan has recently given \$5.000 to the Y. M. C. A. for its work in the Japanese Em-

enturies past. Japan has never been invaded by a foreign foe. Their racial descent is practically pure-hence their intense love of country and entire self-sacrificing patriotism.

Japan's gold production in th tion in the year ended Feb

The Christian Sabbath is a legal rest day in Japan

Unless it may have been by Corean raids in th

Japan's rice crop for 1904 was 263,692,355 bushels an increase of 25,284,226 bushels over the crop of

After eleven months of war and \$140,000,000 of domestic war loans, the Japanese banks (excluding the Bank of Japan, the Government bank) in Tokic Osaka, Kyoto, Nagoya, Yokohama and Kobe had.
Dec. 31, 1904, \$179,000,000 of the people's money
on deposit. This was \$11,000,000 more than the
year before, and \$44,000,000 more than in 1901.
Besides the people's deposits in the post office
savings banks increased \$38,000,000 by deposits
made to November and December 1904.

made in November and December, 1904. The clearing house returns of Tokio, Osaka and Kobe show nearly \$700,000,000 for November and December, 1904, though stock exchange operations decreased 40 to 50 per cent. Very wisely the Japa nese loaned some of their money to the Govern

ment and put the rest in the bank. In spite of the war the average price of commodities in Japan were only 8 per cent. higher in November and December, 1904, than in the same months of 1903.

The fisheries of Japan annually yield about 3.000,000 tons of fish, worth \$30,000,000 to the Japanese fishermen. American fisheries produce about 1,000,000 tons a year. In 1893 Japan had only 167,000 tons of merchant steamships, but by the end of 1904 her mercantile steamship fleet numbered 1.224 vessels of 791,053 aggregate tonnage. This was after suffering a

oss of 71,000 tons by the war. In exports as well as in imports, Japan's foreign trade in the war year 1904 was larger than in the peace years 1901, 1902 and 1903. The figures are 1901, \$254,000,000: 1902, \$265,000,000: 1908, \$308,000.000. and 1904, \$345,000,600. The \$43,000,000 the war year 1904 over peace year 1903 was made up of exports, \$15,000,000, and imports, \$27,000,000

The customs receipts in those years were: 1201. \$7,500,000; 1902, \$7,650,000; 1903, \$8,500,000; and 1904. \$10.600,000. There is \$2,100,000 gain in the war year, valuing the yen at 50 cents.

Japan's specie reserve stood at \$225,000,000 (Amer ican gold value) on Jan. 1, 1965, after eleven months of costly war.

Great Britain's reciprocity treaty with Japan for British India was a good thing for India, as in 1904 Japan bought \$34,000,000 worth of India's goods and only sold India \$4,700,000 worth of Japanese goods. Doubtless the Anglo Japanese al ance made it worth Japan's while to go into Moreover, Indian import duties are only 5 per cent

ad valorem, while Japan's are much heavier. Her Terrible Dream. From the Philadelphia Bulletin

Senator Dubols was lamenting the decay of or atory among American statesmen.
"With only a few exceptkins," he said, "we have in Washington no orators worthy of the name. On this account I had to accept in silence during the last session an acid criticism from a clever woman. "I attended a meeting of the Senate the other day,' she said, 'and that night I had a terrible

dream.'
"What did you dream?' said I. "The lady smiled.

'I dreamed,' she said, 'I went again.'

Good News Slightly Delayed in Transmission Spring Mills correspondence Appointant Times. As I have not seen anything from this place for quite a while, I am going to send in a few items. Oh, how the people are enjoying these beautiful spring days! All we have to do is to glance over away the worst kind of "blues." We are so glad to see everything so beautiful.